

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR AMB MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S TALK WITH MARCOS AUG 21

REFS: (A) STATE 209867 (B) MANILA 14502

1. IN ADDITION POINTS REF (A), AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
MARCOS CONCERN AS NOTED REF (B), IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
SUGGEST YOU ALSO SAY:

-- WE VALUE HIGHLY THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES--OF WHICH THE BASES ARE ONLY A PART-- AND
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE
SIDE.

-- EARLIER THIS YEAR WE SENT A SPECIAL TEAM FROM WASHINGTON
TO REVIEW WITH THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY THEIR MILITARY

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EQUIPMENT NEEDS, AND TO INDICATE AREAS WHERE WE COULD BE
HELPFUL.

-- AT THE REQUEST OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY THIS YEAR WE
EXPEDITED THE DELIVERY OF CERTAIN URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS
INCLUDING HOWITZERS, VEHICLES AND SHELLS, TAKING THESE
SHORT SUPPLY ITEMS OUT OF PACIFIC COMMAND STOCKS, MAKING

AN EXCEPTION TO POLICY TO DO SO.

-- WE AGREED TO PROVIDE F-8S AT THE REQUEST OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY, AND HAVE ALREADY DELIVERED THE FIRST BIRD. WE VIEW FAVORABLY THE REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL 35 F-8S AND ARE URGENTLY LOOKING INTO HOW MANY ENGINES ARE AVAILABLE.

-- THE PHILIPPINE REQUESTS FOR PATROL BOATS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL VEHICLES HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

-- WHILE WORLD-WIDE POLICY PREVENTS US FROM SELLING THE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WALLEYE GUIDED MISSILE, WE WOULD VIEW FAVORABLY A REQUEST FOR THE SLIGHTLY LESS SOPHISTICATED BULLPUP MISSILE.

-- WE ARE NOW REVIEWING CURRENT PHILIPPINE REQUESTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY ITEMS WITH A VIEW TO EXPEDITING THEM--FOR EXAMPLE WE HAVE JUST APPROVED TWO APPLICATIONS FOR THE SALE OF EQUIPMENT TO MANUFACTURE SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION; WE EXPECT TO DEAL WITH THE BULK OF THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING REQUESTS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

2. YOU SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN THAT BOTH MARCOS AND IMELDA UNDERSTAND THAT THE REACTION SHE ENCOUNTERED FROM THE SECRET

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CONGRESSMEN SHE MET WAS PREDICTABLE, ONCE SHE TOOK THE DECISION (WITH NOT THE SLIGHTEST PROMPTING BY US) TO ASK FOR A MEETING WITH THE SIGNERS OF THE APRIL 16 LETTER AND TO ASK THAT BEDELL ARRANGE THE MEETING. WE WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT SOME SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN WERE ADDED TO THE MEETING AND TRIED TO WORK ON SOME OF THE MORE REASONABLE CRITICS IN ADVANCE TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING BUT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THERE WOULD BE SHARP CRITICISM, GIVEN THOSE WHOM SHE HAD ASKED TO BE PRESENT. WERE A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO MEET WITH SUCH NOTED FILIPINO CRITICS OF THE US AS VALENCIA, THE SAME SORT OF CRITICISM, IN REVERSE, WOULD BE EQUALLY UNAVOIDABLE.

3. HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANT THINGS FOR THE MARCOS' TO REMEMBER ARE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE COMBINATION OF STRONG ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING THE VICE PRESIDENT) THE SUPPORT OF KEY CONGRESSMEN SUCH AS ZABLOCKI, AND THE ATTITUDES OF THE MAJORITY OF CONGRESS RESULTED IN RESTORATION OF FOUR OUT OF THE FIVE MILLION WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN CUT. THIS IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT. IT STEMS FROM THE RECOGNITION OF THE MUTUALLY AND REGIONALLY ADVANTAGEOUS STRATEGIC RELATION-

SHIP BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES AS ASIA MOVES INTO A NEW PERIOD WITH GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTIES. THIS CONSIDERATION, WHICH

DICTATED MARCOS' ACTIONS DURING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT, FAR OVERRIDES ANY OF THE IRRITANTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE TO ASIA IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

4. WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESS, YOU MIGHT MAKE ONE ADDITIONAL POINT WHICH SPECIFICALLY LINKS THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY BASE TALKS, THE APPROVAL OF DOLS 17 MILLION IN GRANT MAP, AND FUTURE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES.

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THE RAPID, MUTUALLY FAVORABLE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE RECENTLY DURING THE BASE TALKS WAS OF GREAT VALUE TO THE ADMINISTRATION IN MAKING A STRONG CASE WITH CONGRESS, AND WAS SPECIFICALLY NOTED BY KEY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES. THE SITUATION SURROUNDING THE BASES WILL BE EQUALLY IMPORTANT, PROBABLY MORE SO, WITH CONGRESS NEXT YEAR.

5. FINALLY, YOU MAY WISH TO ADD THAT WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE VERY FAVORABLE BUSINESS AND GENERAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE BETWEEN THE US AND THE PHILIPPINES, AS WELL AS THE LEAD WHICH THE GOP IS TAKING WITH ASEAN AND THE G-77 ON BROADER ISSUES SUCH AS THE COMMON FUND. WE ARE MAKING MAJOR EFFORTS AS MARCOS KNOWS, TO WORK WITH THE GOP ON THESE MATTERS DESPITE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT HOME. HERE, AGAIN, STABILITY OF THE US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE ESSENTIAL BOTH BILATERALLY AND REGIONALLY AS WE PROCEED ALONG THIS COURSE.

6. FYI: YOUR SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN A RESUMPTION OF THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS, ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT WISH TO RAISE IT DIRECTLY WITH MARCOS AT THIS TIME. THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE, OF COURSE, SHOULD BE TO MAKE CLEAR TO MARCOS AND HOPEFULLY IMELDA THAT MOUNTING AN ANTI-US CAMPAIGN AT THIS TIME WILL HAVE VERY SERIOUS NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REGION IN A PERIOD OF INCREASING UNCERTAINTY. THEREFORE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THEM TO THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE THINGS GET OUT OF HAND. IMELDA'S RECEPTION BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS THE ACTION OF CONGRESS ON GRANT MAP, DEMONSTRATE THE DESIRE TO

MAINTAIN THE ESSENTIAL SOUNDNESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP ON
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THIS SIDE DESPITE THE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES. BUT A
STRONG EMOTIONAL WAVE FROM THE GOP DIRECTED AGAINST THE
US MAY WELL PROVOKE A STRONG WAVE MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

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